# IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff.

v.

Civ. No. 18-290

2016 TOYOTA TUNDRA CREWMAX LIMITED VIN:5TFFW5F12GX209795,

Defendant-in-rem.

#### VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR FORFEITURE IN REM

Plaintiff, United States of America, brings this complaint in accordance with Supplemental Rule G(2) of the Supplemental Rules for Certain Admiralty or Maritime Claims and Asset Forfeiture Actions, and alleges as follows:

#### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

1. This is a civil action to forfeit and condemn to the use and benefit of the United States of America property involved in violations of the Controlled Substances Act that is subject to forfeiture pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(4) and 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6).

#### **DEFENDANT IN REM**

- 2. The defendant *in rem* consists of the following:
  - i. 2016 Toyota Tundra Crewmax Limited VIN:5TFFW5F12GX209795, (hereafter referred to as "Defendant Conveyance").
- 3. The Defendant Conveyance was seized by the Drug Enforcement Administration on November 8, 2017, in the District of New Mexico.
- 4. The Defendant Conveyance is now, and during the pendency of this action will be, in the jurisdiction of this Court.

## **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 5. The United States District Court for the District of New Mexico has subject matter jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1345, 1355(a) and 1356.
- 6. Venue for this civil forfeiture action is proper in this district pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1355 and 1395, as acts or omissions giving rise to the forfeiture took place in this district and the property is found in this district. Upon the filing of this complaint, the Defendant Conveyance will be arrested by execution of a Warrant for Arrest *In Rem* in the District of New Mexico.

#### **FACTS**

- 7. On November 8, 2017, Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Agents and Task Force Officers executed a Federal search and seizure warrant at the residence of Luis Alberto Andrade located at 432 General Patch Street NE, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Andrade had been identified as the source of supply of cocaine and methamphetamine for Rene Contreras-Carreon, who was arrested the same day with three pounds of methamphetamine he had obtained from Luis Alberto Andrade.
- 8. During the execution of the warrant agents located approximately 252 grams of cocaine, a scale, packaging that matched previous purchases of drugs, and a Colt MKIV .45 Caliber Pistol later identified as stolen property.
- 9. Present during the execution of the warrant were Diego Oropeza-Morales,
  Marcela Rodriguez-Lemus and a minor female child. Andrade was found hiding in a neighbor's
  yard with a second female child. Andrade was arrested.
- 10. Agents discovered U.S. Currency inside of two jacket pockets in the master bedroom.

- 11. After being advised of his *Miranda* rights, Andrade told agents that he made money by doing drywall and selling drugs. Andrade admitted that he had provided three pounds of methamphetamine to an individual the day prior and was waiting for that individual to pay him \$15,000.00.
- 12. Agents also found the defendant 2016 Toyota Tundra Crewmax Limited. The Tundra had a hidden cut out compartment under the rear passenger seat. Andrade stated that he drove the Tundra, but it was in his sister-in-laws name. Andrade admitted to buying the Tundra.

## FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

- 13. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 12 as though fully set forth.
- 14. Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(6) subjects to forfeiture "[a]ll moneys, negotiable instruments, securities, or other things of value furnished or intended to be furnished by any person in exchange for a controlled substance or listed chemical in violation of this subchapter, all proceeds traceable to such an exchange, and all moneys, negotiable instruments, and securities used or intended to be used to facilitate any violation of this subchapter."
- 15. Defendant Conveyance was furnished, or intended to be furnished, in exchange for a controlled substance, or constitutes proceeds traceable to such an exchange, or was used or intended to be used to facilitate a violation of the Controlled Substances Act and is thus subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(6).

## **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

16. The United States incorporates by reference the allegations in paragraphs 1 through 12 as though fully set forth.

17. Title 21, United States Code, Section 881(a)(4) subjects to forfeiture "[a]ll conveyances, including aircraft, vehicles, or vessels, which are used, or are intended for use, to transport, or in any manner to facilitate the transportation, sale, receipt, possession, or concealment of property in violation of this subchapter."

18. Defendant Vehicle was used or intended to be used to facilitate the transportation, sale, receipt, possession or concealment of illegal controlled substance and is thus subject to forfeiture to the United States pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 881(a)(4).

WHEREFORE: Plaintiff seeks arrest of Defendant Conveyance and forfeiture of same to Plaintiff, determination of the validity and priority of claims of the Claimants and any Unknown Claimants to the Defendant Conveyance, costs and expenses of seizure and of this proceeding, and other proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN C. ANDERSON United States Attorney

STEPHEN R. KOTZ Assistant U.S. Attorney

P.O. Box 607

Albuquerque, NM 87103

(505) 346-7274

## 28 U.S.C. § 1746 DECLARATION

I am a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration who has read the contents of the Complaint for Forfeiture *In Rem* to which this Declaration is attached; and the statements contained in the complaint are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I declare under penalty of perjury and the laws of the United States of America that this Declaration is true and correct, except as to matters stated on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

Dated: 3-27-2018

Geronimo A. Abrahao, Special Agent Drug Enforcement Administration

## JS 44 (Rev. 12/Case 1:18-cv-00290-KBM-KK **CDVIII) COVIER SHIPD/17**/18 Page 1 of 1

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

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I. (a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDANTS					
United States of America				2016 Toyota Tundra Crewmax Limited					
				County of Residence of First Listed Defendant					
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff  (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)  NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF						
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1 U.S. Government	☐ 3 Federal Question		~		PTF DEF			PTF DEF	
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